

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a frame assembly for motor vehicle in which one of the frame elements utilized as a fluid storage volume. An elongated rail portion of the frame assembly defines a closed section which is utilized as a fuel storage volume for an operational fluid of the vehicle. In particular, the present invention is contemplated for use with a fuel cell based in which a fluid storage volume may be used for storing hydrogen, compressed air, water or alternately a cooling fluid. Furthermore, the elongated rail may be provided with various design features for storing a diverse operational fluid as well as adapt the elongated rail for conventional uses as an attachment point for various vehicle components or the routing of wire harnesses and fuel or brake lines.